AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled)

8.   (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform using a rod-in-tube method, comprising the steps of:

a)   inserting a glass rod into a glass pipe and setting a pressure reduction level in the glass pipe,

b)   heating the glass pipe and the glass rod in a longitudinal direction, and

c)   causing the glass pipe to collapse in the longitudinal direction due to the heating, and elongating the unified glass pipe and glass rod in the longitudinal direction until the outer diameter of the glass pipe becomes a predetermined diameter,

wherein each of the glass pipe and the glass rod has a constant linear feed rate, and the linear feed rate of the glass pipe is set faster than that of the glass rod,

in step c), a position at which the glass rod is elongated is longitudinally upstream from a position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapsed on the glass rod, and

in step c), the pressure reduction level, heating temperature and tension are set so that

$$0.1 \leq L1/(L1+L2) \leq 0.8,$$

where L1 is length from the position at which the glass rod is elongated to the position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapse on the glass rod, and L2 is the length from the position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapse on the glass rod to a position at which the outer diameter of the glass pipe becomes a predetermined diameter.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

10.   (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform according to claim 8, wherein step c) is performed so that

$$1 < (d0/D0)/(d1/D1) \leq 2$$

where D0 is the outer diameter of the glass pipe, d0 is the inner diameter of the glass pipe, Dl is the outer diameter of the glass pipe at the position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapse on the glass rod, and dl is the inner diameter of the glass pipe at the position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapse on the glass rod.

Claims 11-14 (Canceled)